Roadmap for a Changing Climate: What you can do

THE NATIONAL FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANT ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Even with the many challenges—and unknowns—of a changing climate, we can work together to safeguard the rich and varied natural resources of the Klamath-Cascade. **The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Adaptation Strategy** outlines doable actions we can take right now to make this valuable region even more resilient.

Developed through an intergovernmental working group of federal, state, and tribal experts, and supplemented with non-governmental input, **The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Adaptation Strategy** (the Strategy) is a roadmap for sustaining the nation's ecological systems and their important uses. The Klamath-Cascade's unique qualities make this region essential to California's climate adaptation efforts; it is a cross-roads among the state's eco-regions and likely to prove more resilient to climate change, serving both as refuge and migratory hub. The Klamath-Cascade is the perfect place to put the Strategy to work.

In the Klamath-Cascade, we need a diverse network of conservation areas. Private lands provide crucial links among the region's many parks and National Forests. The Strategy states that conservation areas should be of increased size, number, and quality; and include healthy and biologically diverse habitat.

An Action Plan
TO HELP NATURE ADAPT

1. Conserve networks of diverse natural lands
2. Restore and enhance habitat
3. Reduce pests, weeds, and other sources of ecological stress
4. Keep lands whole and connected

A single corridor from the McCloud River to Mt Shasta isn't enough; the Klamath-Cascade needs many connections between diverse habitats. We need to build and maintain linkages from rangeland to forests; from rivers to wet meadows; and from valleys to mountaintops. With multiple and secure connections,

Pacific Fishers have lost **43%** of their historic range

wildlife have options to move to find food, water, and shelter; plants can spread to new, suitable areas.

Let's manage more ground with climate adaptation in mind. Improved stewardship of rare and degraded habitats will provide options for creatures on the move. Restoring habitat will also maintain larger ecosystem functions such as water movement, nutrient cycling, and energy flows. Taking care of all kinds of habitat improves the resiliency of the whole system.

In the forests of the Klamath-Cascade, we should focus on wet meadows and aspen groves, which used to occur in abundance. These uncommon habitats can be improved through hands-on projects, countering encroachment, bringing the water table higher, and encouraging aspen regeneration. By restoring tree species and structural diversity—especially by removing overgrown understory vegetation, forests can provide more habitat options and better adapt to changing wildfire conditions.

De-stress: Reducing sources of ecological stress is one of the easiest ways of improving resilience, and also maybe one of the most effective. For instance, over-crowded forests or overly warm rivers result in decreased ecosystem health. Noxious weeds, such as Musk thistle and dyer's woad, compete with native vegetation and reduce the resiliency and diversity of habitat.

Keep landscapes connected. Habitat fragmentation and habitat loss threaten rare and geographically restricted species like the Pacific Fisher. When natural lands are broken up into small ownerships or developed, habitat is lost and populations shrink. If individuals cannot travel between patches of suitable habitat, the population suffers further. Keeping landscapes connected and large blocks intact through long-term land conservation is key, and will be very effective in the Klamath-Cascade.

To implement the Strategy in the Klamath-Cascade, we—especially landowners and resource managers—need to work together to conserve connected, healthy natural areas. Lands with lots of biological and physical diversity are especially important. Actively taking care of the land, and improving it when needed, is key to adaptation. Your actions can make forests more resilient and better able to withstand new conditions in an uncertain future.

MORE RESOURCES:

National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy:
www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov

Strategy: Forest Ecosystems Background Paper:
www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Forest_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange:
http://www.cakex.org/

PACIFIC FOREST TRUST
Private Forests. Public Treasures.

THE PRESIDIO
1001-A O'Reilly Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94129
www.PacificForest.org